

Suggestions of CVC regarding parallel economy

*15. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to CVC's article which appeared in the Economic Times of 22nd January, 2001 suggesting steps which should be taken to place India on the path away from the intersecting parallel economy;

(b) if so, whether Government will study the suggestions with a view to implementing the same;

(c) whether any such exercise has earlier been made; and

(d) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The article appeared in the Economic Times of 27th January, 2001.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) From time to time. Government has been taking legislative, fiscal and administrative measures to check tax evasion and unearth undisclosed income and wealth.

Impact of Chinese goods on Indian Industry

*16. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the glut of Chinese goods has affected the Indian Industry, if so, the extent then-of;

(b) how far the steps taken by Government have helped check the dumping/smuggling of these goods; and

(c) if so, the full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) As per the statistics of India-China trade, during the calendar year 2000 compared to 1999, there has not been any surge of Indian imports compared to exports to China on an overall basis. The rate of growth of exports to China in 2000 compared to 1999 is 63.5% compared to imports of 35.1%. The total imports from China constitute on an average less than 3% of the total Indian imports.

As has been done in respect of certain imports from other countries, the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties has taken up a number of Anti-Dumping cases for investigation involving imports from China.

The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties also initiated *suo-moto* investigations against the imports of Dry Batteries, Sports Shoes and Toys from China on 20.11.2000. Provisional duty has been recommended on Dry Batteries on 24.1.2001 and on Sports Shoes on 25.1.2001. So far as Toys is concerned, the case has been closed since there was on sufficient evidence of injury to justify the continuation of investigations.

Some of the other measures taken by the Government to combat the threat of dumping in general are as follows:

- (i) Imports duties on number of items have been increased, for example, the duty on arecanut has been raised from 35% to 100%, on poultry products from 35% to 100%, on wheat from 0% to 50%, on skimmed milk powder from 0% to 60%, on apple from 35% to 50%, and on rice from 0% to 80%.
- (ii) Import of all packaged commodities have been made subject to compliance of all the conditions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodity) Order, 1977, as applicable on domestic producers.
- (iii) Import of 131 products has been made subject to compliance of the mandatory Indian quality standards as applicable to domestic goods. For compliance of this requirement all manufacturers/exporters of these products to India shall be

required to register themselves with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The list of 131 products includes various food preservatives and additives, milk powder, infant milk food, certain kinds of cement, household and similar electrical appliances, gas cylinders and multi-purpose dry batteries.

Release of telephone connections on the recommendations of M.Ps.

† *17. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the time limit for the installation of telephone connections recommended by Members of Parliament out of their quota;

(b) the number of telephones recommended by the Members of Rajya Sabha from Bihar, giving details separately, out of their quota which have been lying pending for connections for three, six, nine and twelve months respectively;

(c) the reasons for non installation of telephones and the action being takji by Government against the defaulting officers/employees; and

(d)- the steps being taken by Government for providing telephone connections at the earliest in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Out of turn Telephone connections recommended by Hon'ble MPs are installed within 30 days of date of sanction order subject to technical feasibility.

(b) There are 195 telephones lying pending for connection for three months, 37 telephones lying pending for six months, 22 telephones lying pending for nine months and 8 telephones lying pending for twelve months.

(c) and (d) These are lying pending due to technical non-feasibility such as non availability of underground cable pairs, exchange capacity and for other reasons such as commissioning of new exchanges in rural areas and cases of long distance connections.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.